



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - January 30, 2002

- ***In the West***, beneficial precipitation is falling across portions of **Arizona and New Mexico**, booting soil moisture reserves and high-elevation snow packs. Meanwhile, cool weather in **California** is slowing winter grain development, although citrus trees and fruits continue to escape injury.
- ***On the Plains***, a significant snow and ice event is glazing areas from **eastern New Mexico and Texas' northern panhandle to the lower Missouri Valley**. Although the wintry precipitation is causing serious travel and electrical disruptions, winter wheat is benefiting from soil moisture improvements. Farther north, bitterly cold weather is slowly easing across **Montana**, although extremely dry conditions persist.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, a snow and ice storm is developing from **northern Missouri to southern Michigan**, improving soil moisture reserves but stressing livestock and hampering travel. Rain showers are dampening the **southern Corn Belt**, while bitterly cold weather (as low as -10 degrees F) prevails across **northwestern portions of the region**.
- ***In the South***, very warm weather is promoting pasture and winter grain growth. In addition, dry weather is allowing lowland flooding to diminish in the **lower Mississippi Valley**.

Outlook: A major winter storm will continue to produce snow and ice from the **Southwest into the Northeast**, including the **central and southern Plains** and the **Midwest**. Elsewhere, below-normal temperatures will prevail across the **North and West**, while unusually warm weather will persist in the **Southeast**. By week's end, dry air is forecast to overspread most of the U.S., excluding the **Northwest**, where showers are expected to return. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for February 4-8 calls for a return to above-normal temperatures across the **Plains and Midwest**, and near-normal temperatures elsewhere. Wet weather is forecast across the **South and Northwest**, but only light precipitation is expected elsewhere, including the **Southwest** and areas from the **central and northern Plains into the Northeast**.

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